

Sub E1 > 2. (Twice Amended) A gene comprising

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(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4 and having nicotianamine aminotransferase activity, or

(b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of (a), when incubated in a solution of 5 x Denhart's solution, 5x SSPE and 0.1% SDS at 65°C for 12 hours, said nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence having nicotianamine aminotransferase activity.

S 2 E > 11. (Amended) A process for enhancing iron absorbing ability of a [host] plant cell, which absorbs iron making use of mugineic acid compound, which process comprises introducing into a [host] plant cell which absorbs iron making use of mugineic acid compounds an expression plasmid formed by combining (1) a promoter capable of functioning in [a host] said cell, (2) a plant derived nicotianamine aminotransferase gene and (3) a terminator capable of functioning in [a host] said cell, operably in the above described order and transforming said [host] cell.

D 3 Sub E4 > 13. (Amended) the process according to claim [11], wherein the gene of the nicotianamine aminotransferase [is the gene as defined in claim 2] comprises: